RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 7th December, 1999/16 Agrahayana, 1921 (Saka)

The House met at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Chairman *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take up Question 121 and 124 together.

Construction of Super Highway

†*121. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress achieved in the matter of construction of the super highway between the North-South and East-West corridors under the National Highway Development Project;

(b) whether Indian construction companies are participating in the above mentioned highway development programme;

(c) the amount of funds available to the NHAI for the purpose and the sources of such funds; and

(d) the amount of cess collected out of a levy on petrol and diesel so far and made available to the NHAI?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Contracts for 16 projects for upgradation of 220 kms of National Highways on North-South and East-West Corridors have been awarded at an estimated cost of Rs. 670 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Adequate funds are presently available with NHAI for programme under implementation. The project will be financed from

(i) the funds raised through the cess being levied on petrol and high speed diesel,
(ii) loans from Externally Aided Agencies,
(iii) private sector participation
(iv) funds raised by NHAI from the market.

(d) It was anticipated that approximately Rs. 5,000 crores would be collected every year. During the 9th Plan period a sum of Rs. 551 crores has been allocated/earmarked to NHAI as Govt, of India's investment.

Extension of the Super Highway From Siliguri to Guwahati

†*124. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for construction of Super Highway connecting different regions of the country;

(b) whether there is any scheme for extending the Super Highway Scheme from Siliguri upto Guwahati and onwards;

(c) if so, in what manner; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider the scheme for successful completion within the Ninth Five Year Plan itself?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) to (c) The plan is to improve the highways connecting the four metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi Chennai, Calcutta and East-West road from Silcher to Porbandar and North-South road from Kanyakumari to Srinagar to 4/6 lane facility. This includes highway from Siliguri to Guwahati and Silchar. The project will be completed in next 10 years by National Highway Authority of
India.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Sir, the decision to construct super highways is, definitely, a welcome decision. But it is a fact that many States are excluded, particularly, my State is excluded, from the construction of super highways. With regard to the construction of super highways, of course, it is a fact that there is a shift of traffic from railways to road. The super highway, to a certain extent, takes care of it. But, many other agencies are also involved in it. It requires trucks that can carry more tonnage of goods; fuel

† Starred Question Nos. 121 and 124 were taken together.